

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS TO INVENTION:

Please amend Claims 497, 503 and 505 as follows:

Claims 1-496 (canceled)

Claim 497 (currently amended): An Internet-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network for managing and delivering consumer product marketing and merchandising communications directly to consumers at E-Commerce (EC) enabled Websites along on the World Wide Web (WWW), said Internet-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network comprising:

a plurality of e-commerce enabled information servers supporting a plurality of EC-enabled WWW-sites, wherein each said EC-enabled Website includes a plurality of HTML-encoded pages containing images and text descriptions of consumer products which are offered for sale on the WWW and registered with said Internet-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network;

a first Web-based subsystem configured to allow members of the product management team for a registered consumer product, as well as authorized parties, to create and manage a consumer product information (CPI) link structure for each registered consumer product,

wherein said CPI link structure comprises the following items:

- (i) a Universal Product Number (UPN) assigned to the consumer product; and
- (ii) a set of URLs for a plurality of consumer product information (CPI) resources stored on Web-based information servers operably connected to the WWW;

a second Web-based subsystem configured to allow product management team members and authorized parties, associated with a registered consumer product, to create and deploy one or more Web-based Multi-Mode Virtual Kiosks (MMVKs) for each consumer product, and install said deployed MMVKs in one or more said HTML-encoded pages located in said EC-enabled Websites, so that said installed MMVKs are accessible by consumers using a Web browser;

wherein each said MMVK ~~is implemented using~~ comprises (i) a computer-executable server-side component stored on a first Internet-enabled information server operably connected

to the WWW and including code specifying the UPN assigned to said consumer product, and (ii) a MMVK tag embodying a unique URL that references said computer-executable server-side component and is ~~embeddable~~ embedded within at least one of said HTML-encoded pages located in said EC-enabled Websites;

wherein said first Internet-enabled information server generates and serves each said installed MMVK, ~~when generated by said first Internet-enabled information server, and served to the Web browser of a consumer, and said Web browser displays a graphical user interface (GUI) that is characterized by a plurality of independently programmable display modes selected from the group consisting of (i) an advertising display mode for displaying one or more advertising spots, (ii) a promotional display mode for displaying one or more promotional spots, and (iii) a consumer product information (CPI) menu display mode for displaying a set of CPI resources arranged for selection by the consumer using said Web browser;~~

a plurality of Web-based information servers operably connected to the WWW, storing and configured to serve said one or more advertising spots, said one or more promotional spots and said set of CPI resources to said Web browser, for display to the consumer through said plurality of independently programmable display modes of each said MMVK;

a second Internet-enabled information server storing and configured to serve a catalog of MMVK tags on the WWW, for each registered consumer product, for which at least one said MMVK has been created and deployed and is ready for installation on the HTML-encoded pages of said EC-enabled Websites;

wherein said second Internet-enabled information server is configured to allow product management team members and authorized parties to access each said MMVK tag in said catalog and download said MMVK tag for embedding in at least one said HTML-encoded page located in at least one said EC-enabled Website;

wherein said set of URLs included within said CPI link structure for a registered consumer product specifies the location of corresponding CPI resources stored on Web-based information servers located on the WWW, and

wherein one or more of said advertising, promotional and CPI menu display modes of said MMVK associated with said CPI link structure are programmed with a plurality of said CPI resources selected by the product management team members and/or authorized parties;

wherein ~~when~~ said first Web-based subsystem ~~generates~~ is configured to generate at least one said CPI link structure for a registered consumer product, ~~then~~

wherein said second Web-based subsystem is configured to create and deploy one or more MMVKs for the registered consumer product,

wherein said catalog is configured for access by the product management team members and/or authorized parties, and

wherein said second Internet-enabled information server is configured to ~~and the product management team members and/or authorized parties are allowed to access said catalog and download MMVK tags for said one or more MMVKs, from said second Internet-enabled information server,~~ for installation in at least one said HTML-encoded page of at least one of said EC-enabled Websites;

a third Web-based subsystem configured to allow the product management team members and authorized parties to independently program the advertising display mode of each MMVK with one or more advertising spots, and the promotional display mode of the MMVK with one or more promotional spots;

wherein said first Web-based subsystem is configured to allow said product management team members and authorized parties to independently program said CPI menu display mode of each said installed MMVK; and

wherein, ~~upon~~ the Web-browser of the consumer ~~encountering~~ processes one said MMVK tag installed along the HTML-encoded page of one said EC-enabled Website, and said first Internet-enabled information server automatically executes the computer-executable server-side component corresponding to the installed MMVK tag ~~is automatically executed and generates and serves~~ the corresponding MMVK ~~is generated by said first Internet-enabled information server and served~~ to the Web browser, for display by the Web browser and review by the consumer at the EC-enabled Website.

Claim 498 (previously presented): The Internet-enabled consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network of claim 497, wherein, for each MMVK created and deployed for a registered consumer product, the computer-executable server-side component associated with the MMVK comprises the UPN assigned to the consumer product.

Claim 499 (previously presented): The Internet-enabled consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network of claim 497, wherein, for each MMVK created and deployed for a particular consumer product, the computer-executable server-side component associated with the MMVK comprises a consumer product information (CPIR) requesting servlet loaded onto said first Internet-enabled information server.

Claim 500 (previously presented): The Web-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network of claim 497, wherein said CPI link structure further comprises, for each consumer product,

- (iii) a Trademark (TM) assigned to the registered consumer product;
- (iv) a Product Descriptor (PD) associated with the registered consumer product; and
- (v) a set of display attributes associated with each CPI resource in said CPI link structure.

Claim 501 (previously presented): The Web-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network of claim 497, wherein said set of CPI resources are selected from the group consisting of product videos, audio files, product images, product specifications, product advertisements, and product promotions.

Claim 502 (previously presented): The Web-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network of claim 500, wherein said set of display attributes are selected from the group consisting of text for said URLs, graphical icons displayed next to said URLs, and sound files associated with said URLs.

Claim 503 (currently amended): The Web-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network of claim 500, which further comprises a supply-chain information management system ~~importing~~ configured to import said Universal Product Number (UPN), said Trademark (TM) and said Product Descriptor (PD) associated with each said CPI link structure, into a database supported on said Web-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network.

Claim 504 (previously presented): The Web-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network of claim 497, wherein the Web browser of the consumer is supported on a client computing machine selected from the group consisting of a desktop computer, a portable computer, a portable digital assistant (PDA), and mobile computer.

Claim 505 (currently amended): The Web-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network of claim 497, wherein said Web browser ~~of the consumer encountering one said MMVK tag further comprises~~ is responsive to the consumer clicking on a graphical component at which said MMVK tag is embedded in said HTML-encoded page.

Claim 506 (previously presented): The Web-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network of claim 497, wherein said plurality of EC-enabled WWW-sites include EC-enabled WWW-sites selected from the group consisting of EC-enabled stores and EC-enabled online product catalogs.

Claim 507 (previously presented): The Web-based consumer product marketing communication and merchandising network of claim 497, wherein said other authorized parties include agents of said product management team.